Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/06 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404200025-6

WASHINGTON POST
15 March 1985

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-10

Researchers Find Signs U.S. Knew of Mengele's Postwar Hideout

STAT

By Jay Mathews
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, March 14—Researchers here have uncovered evidence indicating that U.S. officials knew of a postwar German hideaway used by accused Nazi war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele but failed to alert authorities.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center here, said a West German government prosecutor acting on the new information has located a cottage in the Bavarian town of Autenried rented by Mengele's wife from 1945 to 1949.

Two U.S. Army intelligence index cards, discovered in a pile of Army documents acquired by the center, list Autenried as Mengele's residence. The cards provide the latest in a chain of clues indicating a link between postwar U.S. officials and the man charged with killing thousands of people at the Auschwitz death camp.

A U.S. Army spokesman refused to comment today, saying that neither Army nor Justice Department investigators had seen the new evidence.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, assistant dean of the center, said the West German prosecutor in Frankfurt heading the search for the fugitive Mengele "went crazy" when told of the Autenried connection. No information previously available to investigators had mentioned the town, about seven miles from Mengele's birthplace at Gunzberg.

Hier said the prosecutor told him by telephone this morning that investigators were combing the town for people who might remember the infamous Nazi physician who allegedly conducted painful and lethal experiments on Jewish children, particularly twins, at Auschwitz.

The center recently has released statements from two former U.S. Army personnel who say they believe that they saw Mengele in U.S. custody or heard reliable reports that he had been arrested by U.S. authorities in the two years after World War II.

Mengele, who would be 73 if he is alive, is thought to be hiding in Paraguay. He was first seen in South America in 1949. Investigators have been unable to discover how he escaped capture after the war or how he managed to leave Germany undetected.

Based on the discovery in U.S. files of the Autenried references and the confirmation of a Mengele connection with the town, "the conclusion that we are heading for is that the Army knew he was there but did not reveal it," Cooper said. Center leaders have suggested that U.S. officials may have protected Mengele, as they protected a few other former Nazi officers, in exchange for intelligence on Soviet activities in Germany.

"It is difficult to understand how American intelligence came to know a specific address ... as the permanent address of Dr. Josef Mengele."

—Rabbi Marvin Hier

In a letter sent Monday to Lt. Gen. William Odom, assistant Army chief of staff for intelligence, Hier asked for an investigation of the source of the information on the two cards. One card is undated, with the word Autenried penned in; the other is dated Dec. 5, 1960, with the place typed in. The undated card also contains what appears to be an address, "Kayausbach," which has been crossed out.

Hier said he initially thought that the information had come from *fragebogen*, the questionnaires that Mengele's relatives and other former Nazi Party members were

Continued

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/06 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404200025-6